

18-01-2000

EP 009901220

1509-P

**Method of Optimizing the Data Transmission**  
**over a Bidirectional Radio Channel**

This invention relates to and is based on a method according to the definition of the species of the main claim.

It is known that for transmission of digital data such as digitized speech or other digital information over a (bidirectional) shortwave radio channel in both transmission directions, the digital data to be transmitted, which is transmitted over the radio channel alternately in forward and reverse directions (simplex operation), can be processed according to a predetermined data transmission protocol, also referred to below as DÜP, and divided into individual data packets (e.g., according to A. S. Tanenbaum, *Computer Networks*, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, 1981, pages 136 ff.; European Patent No. 730,356). This digital data for transmission can also be processed first according to another data transmission protocol at a higher level, i.e., a higher-level data transmission protocol, also referred to below as DÜPHE, e.g., according to the known TCP/IP method (transmission control protocol/Internet protocol). For optimizing data transmission over such a bidirectional radio channel, there have already been proposals to determine the bit error rate at the receiving end and transmit it back to the transmitter, where the length of the data packets is revised accordingly (older German Patent Application 196 51 593.9). Furthermore, it is also known that in a data transmission system that operates by the duplex method and has two separate transmission channels, the data rate can vary as a function of the prevailing data occurrence to make the transmission less sensitive to interference (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,213).

Depending on the type of digital data to be transmitted and the higher-level data transmission protocol (DÜPHE) processing the data, such as TCP/IP, the resulting data packets and acknowledgments in both transmission directions may vary greatly in length and frequency, and thus data throughput can be greatly impaired even when using the above-mentioned optimization

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of data transmission with the data transmission protocol DÜP.

Therefore, the object of this invention is to create a method for optimizing data transmission over a bidirectional radio channel, where the available bidirectional channel capacity is optimally adapted to the data occurrence in both directions.

Starting with a method according to the definition of the species of the main claim, this object is achieved by the characterizing features of the main claim. Advantageous refinements are derived from the subordinate claims.

According to this invention, before transmitting the data packets of the data transmission protocol DÜP, data packet identifiers of the higher-level data transmission protocol DÜPHE are determined, i.e., the number and/or length and/or priority and/or type of data packets is determined, and the length of data packets of data transmission protocol DÜP is adjusted as a function thereof. A wide variety of possible combinations are conceivable for these data packet identifiers. In the simplest case, it may be sufficient to determine only the instantaneous number of data packets or the expected number of data packets. The adjustment is better if, in addition, the instantaneous or expected length of the data packets of the data to be transmitted is also taken into account as an identifier. It is even better to determine the instantaneous or expected priority of incoming data packets from the higher-level data transmission protocol DÜPHE to data transmission protocol DÜP or the instantaneous or expected type of data (information, acknowledgment, control commands or the like). Another identifier may be the respective relevance of data packets of the higher-level data transmission protocol DÜPHE, e.g., the fact that this is a repeat packet. This quantitative determination of data packet identifiers takes place on both sides of the wireless link, and then the length of data packets produced by data transmission protocol DÜP can be adjusted on the basis of these identifiers in the sense of optimum utilization of radio channel capacity, and thus also the frequency in switching between the two directions of the radio channel can be adjusted.

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The figure shows a schematic diagram of a bidirectional shortwave connection between a transmitting and receiving station A and a transmitting and receiving station B. Digital data to be transmitted is divided by a higher-level data transmission protocol DÜPHE such as TCP/IP into individual data packets that are sent in succession over a radio driver RA to the data transmission protocol DÜP of the actual transmitter of station A and transmitted over the radio channel to remote station B, where the data packets are analyzed in the receiver there according to its data transmission protocol DÜP. Digital data to be transmitted is processed in the same way in the transmission operation of remote station B and sent over a radio driver RB to the data transmission protocol DÜP of the transmitter of station B and transmitted over the radio channel to station A. The packets generated by the respective data transmission protocol DÜP may be composed of a variable number of frames, for example, where the number of frames per packet may be between 1 and 15, for example, depending on the quality of the wireless link. Each frame may in turn consist of a 5 byte header of control information, followed by a data part between 4 and 250 bytes long, for example, and a redundancy code (CRC) 2 bytes long, for example. Through the choice of the data volume per frame and the choice of the number of frames per packet, the packet length of the data transmission protocol DÜP can be selected as desired, e.g., between 64 bytes and 8 kbytes, in each station A and B at the transmitting end.

Of the incoming data packets in radio drivers RA and RB from the higher-level data transmission protocol DÜPHE, the number, length, priority and type (control information, data information, acknowledgments, etc.) are determined, and depending on these characteristics, the data transmission protocol DÜP with which the data packets to be transmitted are divided into individual data packets before being transmitted over the transmitter of station A is adjusted accordingly. For example, if a number of short data packets of 100 bytes, for example, to be transmitted is detected in radio driver RA, then the length of data packets generated according to the data transmission protocol DÜP is set at this length. If a plurality of long packets of several kilobytes, for example, arrive at the radio driver, the packets DÜP are lengthened as much as allowed by the data occurrence at the remote station and the instantaneous channel quality.